1. Reread chapter one of *The* *New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. (You can find it on the wikispace. I have some hard copies in the classroom [please read it there].) Explain the progression from slavery to Jim Crow to mass incarceration. Check the wikispace for key words that will support your effort. Look at the use of power on either side, black or white.
2. Identify three core principles in the Constitution or in the Amendments to it. In each case,

1. state the principle

2. state who would benefit most from the exercise of the principle

3. give a specific, tangible example of how the principle might be applied

1. Which of these is the main reason that the United States became one of the significant political and economic powers on earth:

1. the Constitution, a good system for governing

2. natural resources that would have made any society wealthy, regardless of government system

3. capitalist drive of people such as Rockefeller and Carnegie

Some quotations that might give you ideas for your essays.

***The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander**

1. “The wisest among my race understand that the agitation of questions of social equality is the extremest folly, and that progress in the enjoyment of all the privileges that will come to us must be the result of severe and constant struggle rather than of artificial forcing. . . . It is important and right that all privileges of the law be ours, but it is vastly more important that we be *prepared* for the exercises of these privileges. The opportunity to earn a dollar in a factory just now is worth infinitely more than the opportunity to spend a dollar in an opera-house."

—Booker T. Washington, from Up From Slavery, 1907

1. “Negroes must insist continually, in season and out of season, that voting is necessary to proper manhood, that color discrimination is barbarism.”

W.E. B. Du Bois 1903 book The Souls of Black Folk

1. “…it is an historical fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily.”

Martin Luther King, 1963, Letter from a Birmingham Jail

***The Constitution***

1. “We want to create a government that does] not abuse power….[We want to establish a government in such a way that], by the arrangement of things, power checks power.”

Montesquieu

1. “The two great points of difference between a democracy and a republic are: first, the delegation [assignment] of the government, in the latter, to a *small number of citizens* elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens, and greater [size] of country [America is huge and will become larger], over which the latter [republic] may be extended. The effect of the first difference is, on the one hand, to refine and enlarge the public views, by passing them *through the medium of a chosen body of citizens*, whose wisdom may best discern the true interest of their country, and whose patriotism and love of justice will be least likely to sacrifice it to temporary or partial considerations [will not fall for fads].” James Madison, Federalist 10
2. “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

—Lord John Dalberg-Acton, 1887

***Second Industrial Revolution***

1. “He then sketched for me an instrument that he thought would [transmit speech], and we discussed the possibility of constructing one. I did not make it; it was altogether too costly and the chances of its working too uncertain, to impress his financial backers . . . who were insisting that the wisest thing for Bell to do was to perfect the harmonic telegraph; then he would have money and leisure enough to build air castles like the telephone.”

—Thomas A. Watson, from “Recollections of the Birth and Babyhood of the Telephone,”

1. "Two pounds of ironstone . . . one pound and a half of coal, mined, manufactured into coke [made from burning coal with reduced oxygen] . . . one-half pound of lime, . . . [and] a small amount of manganese ore, . . . these four pounds of materials manufactured into one pound of steel, for which the consumer pays one cent."

Andrew Carnegie, *Triumphant Democracy*, 1893

Money question. Similar to this one: If your business were to borrow $8 million for one year at an annual interest rate of 3%, how much would your company owe the bank after one year? Use your common sense to help you. For example, how much is 10% of 8 million? Your answer could not be larger than that number.